

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The specification has been amended to correct matters of form, one or more typographical errors, and to explicitly present one or more elements implicit in the specification as originally written. Support for the amendments to the specification can be found in, for example, FIG. 9 and the paragraph in the original specification beginning on line 26 of page 7. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Each of claims 1 and 3 has been amended for reasons unrelated to patentability, including at least one of: broadening the claims, to explicitly present one or more elements implicit in the claim as originally written when viewed in light of the specification thereby not narrowing the scope of the claim, to detect infringement more easily, to enlarge the scope of infringement, to cover different kinds of infringement (direct, indirect, contributory, induced, and/or importation, etc.), to expedite the issuance of a claim of particular current licensing interest, to target the claim to a party currently interested in licensing certain embodiments, to enlarge the royalty base of the claim, to cover a particular product or person in the marketplace, and/or to target the claim to a particular industry. Written support for amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in FIG. 9 the paragraph in the specification beginning on line 26 of page 8, thus complying with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-9 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 is the independent claim.

I. The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been broadened to overcome this rejection, thereby effectively broadening those rejected claims that are dependent on claim 1. Specifically, the phrase “first and second ground planes positioned on opposite ends of said center strip” has been broadened to “said center strip is positioned between said first ground plane and said second ground plane”. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Indefiniteness Rejection

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been broadened to overcome this rejection, thereby effectively broadening those rejected claims that are dependent on claim 1. Specifically, the phrase “first and second ground planes positioned on opposite ends of said center strip” has been broadened to “said center strip is positioned between said first ground plane and said second ground plane”.

Claim 1 has been further broadened to clarify a concern expressed in the present Office Action “that it remains unclear whether the ‘center strip’ being ‘positioned adjacent to a first edge of each of said first and second rectangular slabs’ is a proper characterization”. See Office Action Page 3 paragraph 1. Claim 1 has been broadened to read “a center strip positioned with a side of said center strip perpendicular to said first side of each of said first and second rectangular slabs of dielectric material”.

Claim 3 has been amended, per the Examiner’s suggestion.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

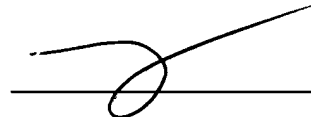
It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application as amended is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Haynes PLC

Date: 22 September 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael N. Haynes', is written over a horizontal line.

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